

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

Newsletter 12




Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% is conserved by national parks and

The *Tłı̨chǫ Land Claims and Self-government Agreement* was initiated on 4 September 2002, during a ceremony in Wha Ti, NWT. In May 2001, government and the Deh Cho First Nations signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant first steps in the Deh Cho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The

– Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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A map of the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut regions of Canada. The map is divided into numbered areas corresponding to the settlement regions listed in the table. Area 1 is the Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Area. Area 2 is the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Area 3 is the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Area 4 is the Sahtu Settlement Area. Areas 5, 6, and 7 are the Dene and Métis Claims Areas of South Mackenzie. Area 8 is the Nunavut Settlement Region. The map shows the geographical boundaries of these regions and their relative positions within the northern territories.

* Overlap exists in claim areas

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Aboriginal Land Claims

Editors' Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

A Brief Overview

In Canada, the common law concept of aboriginal rights and title has been recognized by the courts. The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of aboriginal peoples have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy have been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 *Calder* decision) which acknowledged the existence of aboriginal title in Canadian law. In order to address uncertainties created by the decision, the federal government announced its intention to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

- comprehensive claims - based on the concept of continuing aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and
- specific claims - arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the

comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources. Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements.

Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue-sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the aboriginal community and government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the

national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with aboriginal peoples. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of aboriginal rights, as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore wildlife harvesting rights, resource revenue-sharing and aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

The 1997 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Delgamuukw* has initiated calls from within aboriginal communities to once again review the comprehensive claims policy. The *Delgamuukw* decision is the first comprehensive treatment by the Supreme Court of Canada of aboriginal title.

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government* policy.

Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement

Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government's administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government's primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Other Claims

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Deh Cho

After the failure of the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1990, the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. The Deh Cho Process is the governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the

DCFN. Negotiations have resulted in a draft Framework Agreement and a draft Interim Measures Agreement. The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DCFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement. DCFN and Parks Canada formed the Nahʔa Dehé Consensus Team, a team of six people consisting of three appointees by Deh Cho and three by Parks Canada. The Team has provided advice on the Ecological Integrity Statement and the Park Management Plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. The Consensus Team may make recommendations to the Deh Cho Process main table on interim management arrangements for Nahanni.

Northwest Territory Métis Nation

In 2002 this group, formally known as the South Slave Métis, changed its name to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

When the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* was rejected by the aboriginal peoples in 1990, the

federal government decided to enter into regional claims in the Mackenzie Valley. However, in the South Slave District, Dene First Nations originally opted to seek fulfillment of their Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 entitlements. This left some Métis in this area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process - land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues.

Akaitcho Treaty 8

In 2000 negotiations began between Canada and the approximately 2000 Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and north-easterly as far as the Nunavut boundary. Legal disputes have hampered progress but the parties expect to resume talks in 2003.

Tłı̨chʔ First Nation

The Tłı̨chʔ First Nation (TCFN) and the governments of Canada and the NWT initialed a final agreement on land and self-government negotiations in September 2002. It confirms that approximately 39,000 km² of land, including subsurface resources, will be identified for the TCFN, and that TCFN government will have law-making authority primarily over Dogrib lands and Dogrib Citizens. The date for the ratification vote has not yet been determined. More information can be obtained at **www.dogrib.ca**.

Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Areas

**Government of Canada—
Parks Canada**
National Historic Sites

Caribou Fences of Vuntut National Park
The *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement (1993)* included provisions for the establishment and joint management of Vuntut National Park of Canada. In the consultations leading to the preparation of the Park Management Plan, Vuntut Gwitchin identified the caribou fences in the park as cultural heritage sites of great importance.

Several Elders in the community spoke of the fences, which were used into the early 20th century to corral and kill large numbers of caribou on their annual migration through Vuntut Gwitchin territory. The fences are seen as symbols of the long-term Gwitchin relationship with the Porcupine caribou herd and the close connection between the people and the land.

To meet the community's interests in preserving these critical heritage elements and communicate their value to Canadians, Parks Canada initiated a three year cultural resource management project in 2002. With the aide of young people from Old Crow, an archaeological field crew carried out detailed recordings of one of these fences. Over the next two summer field seasons it is anticipated that all of the fences in the park will be completely documented. At the same time research using the extensive oral history records at the Vuntut Gwitchin Heritage Office will attempt to describe the character of the peoples' relationship with the caribou and their land. This information will be used to prepare an interactive computer simulation of the caribou fence in use so that all Canadians can

learn about and respect the Vuntut Gwitchin cultural heritage.

Tr'ochëk National Historic Site of Canada
The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation has long recognized the cultural importance of their fish camp located at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers. Although displaced from the site during the Gold Rush, they retained strong memories of life on the river. During land claim negotiations, Tr'ochëk ("rocks used to pound in stakes for fish traps"), was identified as a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in heritage site.

The *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement (1998)* recognized the First Nation's ownership of Tr'ochëk and provides for its protection and development as a heritage site. A steering committee, with representatives from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Council, Elders, members of the First Nation's administration and the governments of Yukon and Canada, was established to direct a three year cultural research program.

Through community consultations, led by the Tr'ochëk Heritage Site Steering Committee, the cultural values associated with Tr'ochëk were identified and focused on. Elders want Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and visitors to understand that Tr'ochëk is the source and carrier of their traditional knowledge. They want the youth to know of their heritage, the traditional stories and the place names. The Elders want Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to maintain their cultural identity through the continued use and knowledge of their homeland.

A highly successful archaeological research and assessment program, led by the Government of Yukon Cultural Services Branch, has run

every summer since 1998 and is operated as an "open house" to involve the community in the site. The work has identified important artefacts and sites at Tr'ochëk, and has also offered a popular career-oriented job opportunity for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in youth.

As part of the cultural research program, Parks Canada has supported an ongoing community oral history project, a hydrological study, cultural resource training programs and the investigation of Hän materials held in museums across Canada. The oral history project, run by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Department of Culture and Education, is popular with the Elders of the community and contributes to the revival of the Hän language. An illustrated Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in history has been prepared, and the management of the important Yukon River salmon fishery over the last century has been researched.

The combined archaeological and cultural research supported the designation of Tr'ochëk as a National Historic Site of Canada in the summer of 2002. The Tr'ochëk Heritage Steering Committee completed the Site Management Plan in March 2003.

In conjunction with research and planning for Tr'ochëk, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have undertaken a community cultural development program addressing Hän language training, regional placenames, the development of a school curriculum, the organization of their government records, seasonal culture camps and the construction and operation of the Dänojà Zho Culture Centre. Dänojà Zho, with its exhibit and interpretive programs, will be the entry to Tr'ochëk National Historic Site of Canada.

**Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society—
Yukon Chapter**

Introduction
Since 1999, the percentage of permanent designated protected areas in the Yukon has increased from 8.7% to approximately 11.8%. Additional areas could bring the total to just under 14% subject to ratification of several land claims agreements anticipated in 2003. In 2002 implementing the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) was limited to cabinet approval of the Eagle Plains area as a candidate territorial park. In the absence of strong YPAS initiatives, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Yukon Chapter focused on community conservation work, public education on land use planning, conservation mapping and leadership training.

Peel River Watershed
One of Canada's most striking and pristine watersheds, the Peel River collects the waters of tributaries such as the Ogilvie, Blackstone, Hart, Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume. These rivers, with their long cultural history, clear flowing waters, free-ranging wildlife and rugged northern beauty, form the heart of a great mountain ecosystem. The greater Peel River watershed accounts for approximately 14% of the Yukon land mass; a natural area of global importance that has sustained aboriginal peoples through time.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Yukon Chapter produced a conservation atlas for the Peel watershed, focusing on the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers. The atlas is based on three years of co-operative research work with First Nations and Renewable Resource Councils. Following the recommendations of an Elders meeting and First Nations Summit, the Peel River Regional Planning Commission started its work in 2003. The Commission is an important

forum through which conservation planning takes place. The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy identified this region as a priority, with the Snake River watershed as a leading candidate for protection.

Southeast Yukon
Although no new protected areas were established in the southeast Yukon in 2002, substantial progress was made on a template for forest planning and management. The federal government agreed to move forward with regional planning in advance of large-scale timber harvest agreements. A Memorandum of Understanding between the federal government and the Kaska (Liard) First Nation established an innovative community-based framework for forest planning. These steps will, in turn, support conservation planning for the region. The Yukon and BC chapters of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society established a working relationship with the Kaska Nation and set the stage for co-operation on conservation in the 240,000 km² traditional territory.

Three Rivers Journey, 2003
In late July 2003, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Yukon Chapter, with the participation of First Nations, communities and other organizations, will host three simultaneous river journeys on the Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake Rivers in the Peel River watershed. Participants in the journeys will include community and First Nation members, conservationists, writers, artists, photographers, leaders, invited media and scientists.

After the trips, Elders and community members will join the travellers for a celebration of the three rivers and the Peel watershed. Artists who participated in the journeys will prepare their stories and images from the Peel watershed, and submit their materials for a northern and national tour. The tour will celebrate and symbolize the

people, wild landscapes and cultural importance of the Peel River and the three rivers tributaries. A strong conservation message will accompany the art exhibit.

Wolf Lake
Several years ago, Parks Canada released a study showing that the Wolf Lake area was a candidate for protection in Natural Region 7. This region covers the northern interior of British Columbia from the Spatzizi Plateau, north through Jennings Lake, on to Wolf Lake, and up to the Tombstone Range in central Yukon.

The Wolf Lake/Nisutlin ecosystem is noted for its intact woodland caribou herd range, and rich wetland and riparian areas. This watershed plays a key ecological role in sustaining the integrity of the Nisutlin National Wildlife Area, a staging area for thousands of migratory waterfowl. The Wolf and Nisutlin Rivers support spawning salmon at the head of the longest Chinook salmon run in the world - the 3,000 km long Yukon River.

A national park will only move forward in Region 7 with the support of the affected community and First Nation. Specific terms of a park agreement would be negotiated with the First Nation and the territorial government. First Nation harvesting rights would be protected under the land claim, and the community would be represented on the park management board.

**Government of Yukon—
Business, Tourism & Culture**
Cultural Services Branch

Fort Selkirk Historic Site
Work began on the interior restoration of the Taylor & Drury Store in 2002. Shelving was reconstructed based on ghost images left on the walls and historic photos of store shelving used elsewhere at the site. Materials were also obtained in preparation for the re-installation of ceiling paneling. Other restoration

work involved repair and construction of doors, windows and fence gates. The work allowed for the training of site staff in different woodworking techniques. All work at the site is based upon the Fort Selkirk Management Plan (2000).

Guided walking tours cover a lot of ground as over 40 historic buildings extend for a kilometre along the bank of the Yukon River. See www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/FortSelkirk for an introduction to the site.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon according to the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site
More commonly known as Forty Mile, Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is situated on approximately 124 acres at the mouth of the Fortymile River where it enters the Yukon River near the Alaska border. The site includes a material record of prehistoric Hän use and occupation, overlain by archaeological evidence and collapsed and standing structures dating as far back as 1886. There is also evidence of two American trading posts, the Yukon's first North-West Mounted Police post, an Anglican mission and church, and a community predating the Klondike Gold Rush.

Forty Mile made national news with the discovery of remnants of the Fort Constantine palisade which was exposed in the eroding bank of the Yukon River, and again when the recovering Fortymile caribou herd made its first crossing of the Yukon River in 50 years.

In 2002 a great deal of attention was focused on this historic site. A fifth season of archaeological investigations was initiated. To date, over 500 historic features, including large artefacts and artefact clusters, have been mapped at the site. More

than 60 of those features are building remains, 12 of which are still standing in various conditions. Evidence of two prehistoric occupation periods has been discovered, the oldest dating back at least 500 years.

Forty Mile is co-owned and co-managed by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon. The development of a long-term management plan got underway in June 2002. A steering committee, composed of three representatives each from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments, is overseeing the production of the management plan. Public consultations have been carried out in Dawson City and Whitehorse, with further consultations having taken place in February 2003. It is anticipated that the final plan will be complete at the beginning of April 2003.

Interpretation and Signage
Site investigations and research took place for the preparation of an interpretation plan for the Yukon River. Growing numbers of travellers are experiencing the natural and cultural heritage along Yukon's largest, and most famous, river corridor. However there is no comprehensive strategy to deliver interpretive and informational messages. The Yukon River Interpretive Signage Plan will attempt to help organize messages and determine the best locations for their delivery. Indiscriminate camping along the river, and the lack of understanding of local customs and proper behaviour, is in danger of corrupting the pristine environment and impinging on the enjoyment of the river.

Historical building walking tour brochures were produced for Keno City and Mayo as part of Business, Tourism and Culture's "Stay Another Day" campaign. Development of the brochures required close consultation with community members - especially "old timers" who offered intriguing tidbits of knowledge about the historic

buildings and their owners. A total of seven historical walking tour brochures have been developed to date.

Lansing Post
In August 2002 archaeological investigations were carried out at Lansing Post Historic Site to help determine the boundaries of the site and other potential heritage management issues in the immediate area. As set out in the *Nacho N'yak Dun First Nation Final Agreement*, Lansing Post is owned by the First Nation but is to be managed in accordance with a management plan to be developed in co-operation with the Government of Yukon.

Lansing Post is located at the confluence of the Lansing and Stewart Rivers about 120 kilometres east of Mayo. Established in 1902, the trading post served northern Tutchone from the upper Stewart, Peel and Macmillan Rivers, and Mackenzie Indians from Fort Norman. A local trapper currently lives at the site with his family.

The general area has suffered from extensive riverbank erosion and forest fires. It has been estimated that 25 to 30 metres of the bank has eroded at the site over the past 20 years, resulting in the need to move one historic building. Nine graves and human remains are exposed in the eroding bank of the Stewart River at a graveyard located opposite Lansing Post. A further 22 graves were counted above the bank.

Mammoth Conference
The Government of Yukon, Cultural Services Branch will host the 3rd International Mammoth Conference (IMC), May 24 to 29, 2003. There will be three days of technical and poster sessions in Dawson City and an excursion to the Klondike Goldfields, one of the world's major sources of woolly mammoth fossils. This will be the first IMC held outside Europe. Delegates are registered from all corners of the world. See www.yukonmuseums.ca/mammoth

Rampart House Historic Site
Restoration on the exterior of the one-and-a-half storey store at Rampart House was completed this past summer. Started three summers ago, the log building has been completely disassembled and put back together, replacing rotted members. The logs were hewn square and fitted between vertical posts to form the walls, and split poles were used to form the roof. A crew of log workers from Old Crow learned hewing and splicing skills during the reconstruction phases. Restoration of the windows, doors and interior remain to be completed.

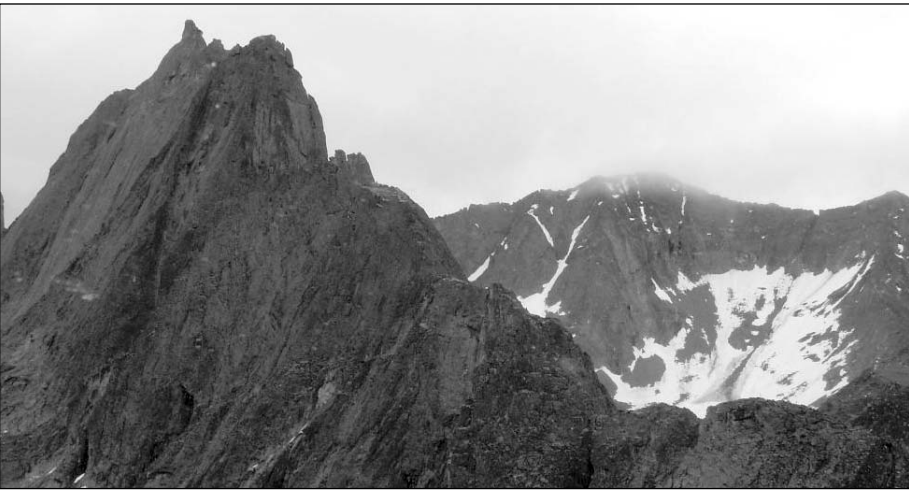
Rampart House Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Government of Yukon according to the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement* and the subsequent 1999 management plan.

The Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Lands Oral History Study entered its fourth and final year. Final products will include the translated, transcribed, indexed and edited interview collection, a video of the project, an inventory of published and unpublished materials, school curriculum kits and a publishable manuscript on Vuntut Gwitchin history.

Tombstone Territorial Park
Work continues on the management plans for Tombstone Territorial Park and the Tombstone Corridor. As part of the planning process, heritage resource surveys were undertaken in partnership with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Office and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. Archaeological investigations focused on monitoring the campground area under development and inventorying sites within the highway corridor. Also investigated were a series of historic camps related to Ts'ok giitlin. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as well as Tukkuhdh and Teet'it Gwich'in, used these camps and a nearby caribou



Rock formation along the Porcupine River at Rampart House. (YTG Cultural Services Branch)



Mountains in the heart of Tombstone (YTG Cultural Services Branch)

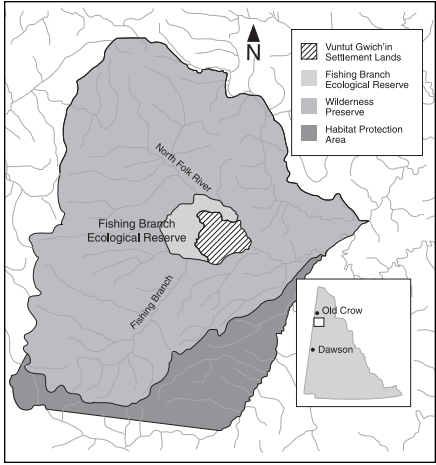
fence to harvest caribou for the population of Dawson City from approximately 1900 to 1930.

Monitoring visits were made to the historic camps of Dinner Gultch and Twelve Mile. Dinner Gultch was associated with the Little Twelve Mile component of the "Million Dollar" Ditch—a series of flumes, ditches and wood stave pipes that, starting in 1909, brought water over 100 km from the headwaters of the Tombstone River across hills and valleys to the Klondike gold fields for use in hydraulic mining. It was an engineering marvel in its time, rivaling the Panama Canal. Twelve Mile was another engineering marvel—a hydroelectric power plant built in

1908 that harnessed the Twelve Mile River and brought electricity to power the giant dredges in the Klondike (also see article on page 8).

Department of the Environment Parks Branch

Fishing Branch Protected Area
The Fishing Branch River is the most important salmon-spawning stream in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River system. It supports unusually large runs of salmon and has very high wildlife values associated with the local grizzly bear population. There are three different levels of protection in the immediate area.



Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve



Fishing Branch—Grizzly Lake. (YTG, Parks /Dennis Kuch)



Fishing Branch—Bear Cave Mountain (YTG Parks/Dennis Kuch)

The first is a core ecological reserve established as a Special Management Area in the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*. The second is the proposed Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve that surrounds the ecological reserve and provides a higher level of protection for the core area. The third is a proposed habitat protection area adjacent to the Wilderness Preserve.

A park management plan was approved for the Special Management Area in April 2000 and the land is subject to a permanent subsurface mineral withdrawal. The legal boundary description for the Wilderness Preserve and Habitat Protection Area was completed to allow for the transfer of land. The administration and management of the 5,217 km² Wilderness Preserve was transferred to the Government of Yukon in October 2001. The Wilderness Preserve and the Habitat Protection Area final management plan is nearing completion. Designation under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act and Wildlife Act* will follow.

Tombstone Territorial Park

The commitment to establish Tombstone as a Yukon territorial park arose from the Special Management

Areas provisions in the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement (1998)*. Commitments were made to identify a park boundary that captures representative parts of the Mackenzie ecoregion, along with important physical and biological features and sites of archaeological and cultural values.

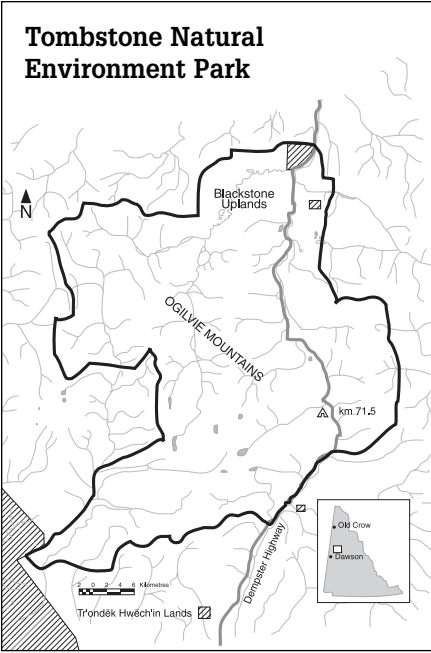
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon appointed a steering committee to recommend a park boundary and prepare a park management plan (also see article on page 7). The work of the Tombstone Steering Committee has lead to a boundary encompassing 2,164 km² of land for designation under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. Application to transfer the control and administration of the land to the Government of Yukon, which is a requirement prior to the area being designated as parkland, is expected in the near future. A permanent subsurface mineral withdrawal will be implemented once the land is transferred.

The Steering Committee presented its park management plan to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon in January 2003 for their review and approval. Adoption of the proposed Tombstone park management plan will lead to the designation of the area as a territorial park under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, and will protect the unique diversity of habitats, wildlife, landforms and cultural resources of the area.

Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

The Government of Yukon put the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) on hold in early 2003. The YPAS process identifies and designates protected areas in each of the unrepresented ecoregions in the Yukon.

Scientific and technical assessment work within the ecoregions will continue. This work is in direct support of existing Special Management Areas arising from



Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and existing protected areas. The work allows informed decisions to be made about sensitive areas and supports the resource assessment process. These assessments will provide important information for any future protected areas initiatives.

Canadian Heritage River System—Business, Tourism & Culture *Cultural Services Branch*

Yukon River (Thirty Mile Section)

The Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River is so named because it is a thirty mile long stretch of the river famous for its twisting canyons and fast, clear water that was treacherous to navigate for historic paddlewheelers. There are a number of wrecks still visible.

The Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1991. A management plan was developed at that time in partnership with the Ta'An Kwäch'än Council, and the



Tombstone Camp (YTG, Parks/Dennis Kuch)



Ridge on ridge—Tombstone. (YTG, Parks /Dennis Kuch)

governments of Yukon and Canada. The management plan identifies natural and cultural resources for protection. The signing of the *Ta'An Kwäch'än First Nation Final Agreement (2002)* more clearly defines ownership of certain properties and management responsibilities along the Thirty Mile.

The Government of Yukon owns a small portion of the historic site of Lower Laberge, where the Thirty Mile River begins at the outlet of Lake Laberge, as well as the historic sites of Hootalinqua and Shipyard Island at the end of the Thirty Mile River, opposite where the Teslin River enters the Yukon River. Hootalinqua, being at the juncture of the Yukon and Teslin Rivers, was an important shipping point, and Shipyard Island provided ways for

making repairs to boats and winter storage.

Work began on improvements to, and restoration of, Hootalinqua in 2002. Brush was cleared at Hootalinqua and nearby Shipyard Island to open up the sites for camping and viewing. This also provided some protection for historic resources including several buildings and the hulk of the *SS Evelyn* paddlewheel.

Department of the Environment *Parks Branch*

Tatshenshini River

Work on establishing the Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River as a Canadian heritage river is progressing. The Tatshenshini was

nominated as a heritage river in February 1998 as one of the requirements under the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement*. Preparation of a

management strategy began in 1999, with extensive consultations focusing on three main issues: recreational use; size of the management area; and access routes to the river. Once

accepted by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the next step is the official designation and the implementation of the management strategy.

Action Plan to Protect Canada's Natural Heritage

On October 3, 2002, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Minister of Canadian Heritage announced an action plan to substantially complete Canada's system of national parks by creating 10 new parks over the next five years, and adding ecologically significant lands to three existing national parks. The Prime Minister and Minister were clear in their announcement that this agenda could only be achieved in co-operation with the provinces and territories, aboriginal and rural communities, industry, environmental groups and others.

The announcement is significant for northern Canada as it provides for the establishment of a number of national parks. Areas for inclusion or consideration North of 60° are Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay); Northern Bathurst Island; the completion of Tuktut Nogait National Park in the Sahtu and Nunavut; the completion of Nahanni; the national park proposal on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake; and the identification of a candidate site in Natural Region 7 - the northern interior plateaux and mountains of Yukon and BC. Five new national marine conservation areas will also be created, adding an estimated 15,000 km² to the system. While Parks

Canada has identified three candidate sites, it is engaged in a process to identify the remaining two sites. In addition, actions will be accelerated over the next five years to improve the ecological integrity of Canada's 39 existing national parks. With the potential addition of ten new national parks, the national parks system will be 87% complete (34 of 39 regions represented) and will provide for the protection of an estimated additional 100,500 km² of Canadian wilderness and natural areas to the over 244,000 km² of existing national park lands.

Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Government of Canada—Parks Canada National Parks

Aulavik National Park of Canada
Aulavik National Park of Canada is located on northern Banks Island and represents the Western Arctic Lowlands Natural Region. Inuvialuit and the Government of Canada signed an agreement to establish the park in 1992.

2002 ecological monitoring activities focused on climate, vegetation and habitat, wildlife, and the impact of human use on natural and cultural resources. Activities included weather tracking from two automated year-round weather stations, water quality testing on the Thomsen River and satellite vegetation monitoring. Outreach activities included the delivery of the Environmental Stewardship Certificate Program to grades four to six school children in Sachs Harbour,

and the sponsorship of an Inuvialuit youth as an assistant to park staff during a park patrol.

Community consultations and a comprehensive design plan are proceeding for a visitor reception centre in Sachs Harbour.

Ivvavik National Park of Canada
Ivvavik National Park of Canada, located in northern Yukon, represents the Northern Yukon and Mackenzie Delta Natural Regions. It was established through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)*.

Ecological monitoring activities carried out during the 2002 field season focused on climate, vegetation and habitat, wildlife, and the impact of human use on natural and cultural resources. Wildlife surveys were conducted on muskoxen, Dall's sheep and breeding birds. Water quality and the rate of flow were tested on the Firth River, and plans are in progress to begin monitoring depth to permafrost at two weather stations

within the park. Day use opportunities in the park are being considered. An aircraft landing site next to the Babbage River, currently under environmental assessment, would accommodate short take-off and landing-capable aircraft on tundra tires. As a means of streamlining management processes and research, Ivvavik's *Ecosystem Conservation Plan* and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) *Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan* have been integrated into one plan. This plan will set priorities for the entire Yukon North Slope for environmental protection, research, monitoring and management.

Pingo Canadian Landmark
The Canadian Pingo Landmark, the only landmark in Canada, represents the permafrost and pingo terrain characteristic of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula.

A *Memorandum of Agreement*, signed by Parks Canada and the community of Tuktoyaktuk in December 2001, reflects the policies and legislation of Parks Canada. The *Agreement* includes a summary of management actions that were prioritized for implementation by the Pingo Working Group. The group met in January 2003 to formalize a process to develop and protect the landmark. Work is underway to develop an ecological monitoring program.

Government of Yukon—Business, Tourism & Culture Cultural Services Branch

Herschel Island Territorial Park
Preparations are underway to move a historic building because of shoreline erosion. The Northern Whaling & Trading Co. warehouse will be relocated back from its present position.Increasingly violent fall



Herschel Island sea ice damage. (YTG, Cultural Services Branch)

storms reshape the spit where the historic whaling settlement was built. Erosion will continue to be monitored as all the remaining historic buildings are barely above sea level. It is not known if the change in weather

patterns is a long-term or unique event. Learn more about Herschel Island at www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Herschel

Gwich'in Settlement Area



The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) has a mandate “to document, preserve and promote the practice of Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge, and values”. This mandate is carried out through a comprehensive program of research, language and education. A five year business plan was completed in May 2002 that outlines how GSCI should continue to document, preserve and promote Gwich'in culture and language through further oral history, traditional knowledge, place names and other ethnographic research. The plan also outlines how increased responsibilities associated with heritage resource management obligations and language renewal can possibly be met.

Following extensive community consultations, GSCI presented a draft traditional knowledge policy to the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors for approval. The policy will ensure that the collection, management and dissemination of traditional knowledge is carried out in an ethical and respectful manner, and acknowledges the Gwich'in people as holders of this knowledge. Approved in principle, GSCI is now finalizing the policy and preparing an implementation strategy. Once finalized, the policy will apply to all traditional knowledge work conducted in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

19th Century Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing Project
Over the last two years, 35 seamstresses in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and

Yellowknife have been sewing five replicas of a late 19th century Gwich'in man's outfit. The original outfit is currently housed at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC).This project is a joint partnership between the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, with assistance from the CMC. Workshops have been held in Yellowknife, Tl'oondih, Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic.The July 2002 workshop, held in Tsiigehtchic, resulted in the completion of the fourth of the five outfits.Once the fifth outfit is complete, replicas will be displayed in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Yellowknife. Two of the project co-ordinators were invited to make a presentation in September 2002 to the 9th International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies in



Seamstresses of the 19th Century Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing Project. (GSCI)

Edinburgh, Scotland. This conference was an opportunity to promote Gwich'in heritage and knowledge and allowed anthropologists, archaeologists and indigenous people from many different countries to learn about the GSCI efforts to preserve Gwich'in material culture and traditions. The presentation exhibited one of the replicas displayed alongside a large and colourful six foot by four foot poster describing the project.

Fort McPherson Archaeological Excavation and Survey

In August 2002 the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), in partnership with the Teet'it Gwich'in Council and Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, initiated a community-based archaeology project. The project included a two-week excavation at a site located within the community of Fort McPherson, which had been test excavated in 2000 and was found to warrant further excavation. This work provided seven local youth with training and employment opportunities, enabling them to learn about archaeology and their own history. The area of excavation was a late 19th, early 20th century camp used by Teet'it Gwich'in when coming to trade with the Hudson's Bay Company.

Besides animal bones, the students excavated many Euro-Canadian artefacts such as nails, cartridge cases, pottery and glass fragments, numerous beads and one gun flint. Gwich'in-made artefacts found at the site included several bone and antler spear points, a needle or awl made of antler, and a few chert and quartzite flakes. Evidence of hearths were found within all of the units excavated, and a few cooking rocks were also collected. The presence of a significant amount of decaying or decayed wood suggested that a structure may have stood at the site at one time.

Gwich'in Mentoring Program

The Gwich'in language is the most endangered of all of the Athapaskan languages in the Mackenzie Valley. According to 1998 statistics, 13% of Gwich'in beneficiaries living in the NWT speak the language, but only two percent speak the language in their homes. In order to reverse this trend eight pairs of fluent speakers (mentors) have been matched with learners (apprentices). Started in mid-November, the pairs met for a minimum of four hours per week, to the end of January 2003, to improve Gwich'in language skills. If, after review, this program shows potential, additional programs will be carried out in all the Gwich'in communities.

Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site Project

Nagwichoonjik is Canada's longest national historic site. It stretches 175 km from Point Separation to one km upstream from the confluence of the Mackenzie and Thunder Rivers.

In January 2002, the Nagwichoonjik Community Steering Committee and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute met with Parks Canada and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to decide on a boundary for the site. Using maps showing traditional place names and other heritage resources, the Committee decided on a five km boundary inland from the high water mark on each shore of the river, running the entire length of the site. The boundary was submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and approved in June 2002. The Committee will now work toward finalizing the draft Commemorative Integrity Statement.

Teet'it Gwich'in National Historic Site Project

In the fall of 2002 the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), working in partnership with the community of Fort McPherson and Parks Canada, began the process of identifying a national historic site within the Teet'it Gwich'in traditional land use area. An 11 member Teet'it Gwich'in Community Steering Committee, made up of Elders, younger people and band representatives, held a three-day meeting in mid-November and identified three possible areas for the community's consideration. Once the community consultation process has been completed, a paper will be drafted for consideration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. This is seen as a opportunity to promote a better awareness of Teet'it Gwich'in history and culture.

Sahtu Settlement Area

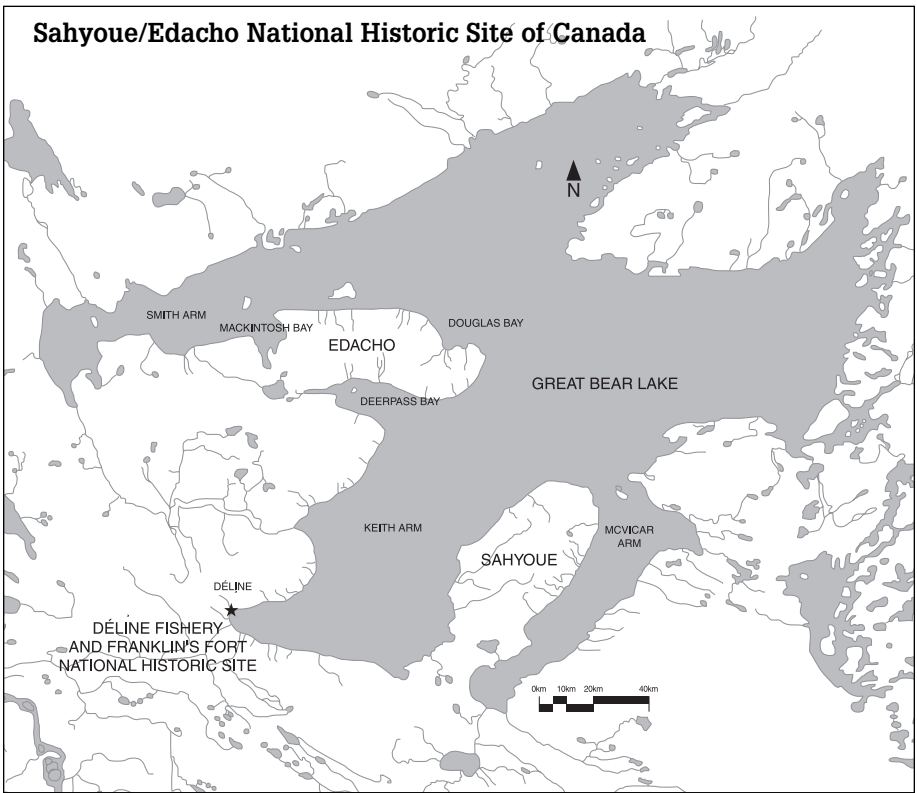
Government of Canada—
Parks Canada
National Historic Sites

Sahyoue/Edacho National Historic Site of Canada

These two large peninsulas on Great Bear Lake are sacred places and, together, they constitute one of Canada's largest national historic sites. Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain)/Edacho (Scented Grass Hills) are cultural landscapes commemorated to celebrate the Sahtu Dene relationship between oral history (stories) and the land. It is through the telling of stories that Sahtu Dene pass on knowledge about past life ways, traditions, law, history, and origins of Sahtu Dene culture, spiritual values, life style and land use.

Parks Canada continues to work with the community of Deline toward the long-term protection of Sahyoue/Edacho through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). The Sahyoue/Edacho Working Group consists of Sahtu Dene representatives and participants from Parks Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Government of the NWT, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NWT Chapter. Sahyoue/Edacho is the first NWT PAS candidate site to achieve interim protection (also see article on page 20).

In February 2001, the Minister of Canadian Heritage sponsored interim protection for Sahyoue/Edacho for a five year period. This signalled completion of four of the eight steps outlined in the PAS. As part of the NWT PAS fifth step, the working group is currently in year two of a three-year work plan to determine the most effective means of long-term protection. Year one and two of the work focused on ecological, cultural



and economic values. In year three, all evaluations will be compiled into one comprehensive report. The findings, along with management options, will be presented at community and public consultation sessions. Based on the evaluation process and input from the public review, recommendations for long-term protection will be presented to the community and to the Ministers as represented by the Working Group.

Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society—
NWT Chapter

Sahyoue/Edacho and the Waters of Great Bear Lake

Working through the Sahyoue/Edacho Working Group, and in partnership with the community of Deline and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development of the

Government of the NWT, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) organized the completion of the ecological assessments of Sahyoue/Edacho in 2002 as part of Step 5 of the Protected Areas Strategy. Participation in the Working Group toward obtaining full and permanent protection for Sahyoue/Edacho continues (also see article on page 20).

Though significant, these two westerly peninsulas of Great Bear Lake are not enough to protect Sahtu culture or the biodiversity within the lake's watershed. CPAWS-NWT has broadened its work to look at management options for maintaining water quality and is working with many partners toward a shared vision: "Great Bear Lake must be kept clean and bountiful for all time". A workshop held in Deline in March 2003, continues the work toward a management strategy for the watershed.

Deh Cho

**Government of Canada—
Parks Canada**
National Parks

Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada
For many years Parks Canada has been on record as wanting to expand the boundaries of Nahanni National Park Reserve. In the 1980s three candidate areas were identified for inclusion, namely the Tlogotsho Plateau, the Ragged Range, and a Karst area north of First Canyon. Completing the park by expanding into these areas will contribute to better representation of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region and protection of the ecological integrity of the park. Final determination of park boundaries, as well as establishment of Nahanni as a national park will occur as part of the Deh Cho Process.

As a participant in the Deh Cho Process, Parks Canada tabled information on areas of high conservation value around Nahanni National Park Reserve in November 2001. Parks Canada's data, along with information submitted by other federal and territorial departments and the Deh Cho First Nations, has been used to determine areas within the Deh Cho region that will be subject to an interim land withdrawal pending conclusion of a Deh Cho final agreement. Subject to the results of public consultations, the interim land withdrawal is scheduled for March 2003. Parks Canada expects that much of the areas of high conservation value will be within the lands protected by the interim land withdrawal.

**Government of Canada—
Parks Canada**
National Historic Sites

Ehdaa National Historic Site of Canada
Ehdaa was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in July 2002. The plaque, commemorating the national historic importance of the site, was blessed by Pope John Paul II during the 2002 World Youth Day celebrations in Canada. In 1987, the Pope visited Ehdaa to speak to assembled First Nations, Métis and Inuit.
Located at the southeastern end of Fort Simpson Island, near the confluence of the Mackenzie (Dehcho) and Liard (Nachaa Déhé) Rivers, Ehdaa has been an important gathering place of Dene since before contact with Europeans.

A low-lying open flat land, Ehdaa has long been used for seasonal gatherings by Dene. Here, land use was allocated by Elders, puberty rites and games were held, marriages performed, disputes settled, and goods and knowledge exchanged. Spiritual healing was carried out and thanksgiving ceremonies, such as the Drum Dance, were held. During the fur trade era, following the establishment of a fort near Ehdaa around the year 1804, Dene traded with Europeans and met Hudson's Bay Company representatives, church missionaries and government officials near this site. The fort was later named Fort Simpson. To this day, annual treaty payments are still disbursed at the Ehdaa site's Drum Circle.

**Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society—
NWT Chapter**

South Nahanni Watershed
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) has been working to better protect Nahanni for many years. A recent highlight was the Prime Minister of Canada's announcement in the fall of 2002 that included plans for the completion of Nahanni and its establishment as a National Park of Canada.
While the current park reserve, in part, protects the waterfalls, canyons and hot springs in a corridor along the river, it leaves out most of the South Nahanni watershed which contains critical habitat for wildlife species such as woodland caribou and grizzly bear. The majority of the watershed, which surrounds and buffers the park reserve, lies within the Deh Cho First Nations' (DCFN) traditional territory.
The Deh Cho Process interim land withdrawal negotiations present an opportunity to gain interim protection of the watershed. The DCFN recently called on the Government of Canada to provide interim protection for the entire Deh Cho portion of the watershed. CPAWS-NWT supported this provision, which would leave options open to create a permanent, protected area in the Nahanni region. Canada has not agreed to the DCFN request.
CPAWS-NWT will continue to work to protect the watershed from negative impacts of industrial development by participating in regional regulatory and environmental assessment processes.

Dene and Métis Claims Areas (South Slave)

**Government of Canada—
Parks Canada**
National Parks

East Arm of Great Slave Lake National Park Proposal
The future of this proposal remains tied to the processes for resolving aboriginal claims and treaty entitlements that are outstanding in the area. Because of their proximity to, and use of, the lands that have been withdrawn for park purposes for the past thirty years, Parks Canada's consultations have focused largely on the people of Zutsel K'e. Those consultations have waxed and waned over the years according to the stage and success of claims/treaty negotiations.

The Zutsel K'e Dene First Nation has recently been pursuing its claim together with other Treaty 8 First Nations based in Yellowknife, Detah, N'dilo and Fort Resolution through the Akaitcho Process. Negotiations in this forum have been suspended pending settlement of other issues, but those issues are being resolved and the parties expect to resume negotiations early in 2003. To prepare for dealing with the national park in negotiations, Parks Canada is working with the Zutsel K'e Dene First Nation to gather information and conduct community workshops on matters pertaining to the proposed national park.

On September 4, 2002, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the governments of the NWT and Canada initialled a Land Claims and Self-government Agreement, the *T'ijchq Agreement*. This Agreement addresses some matters pertaining to T'ijchq Citizens' relationship to the park in the East Arm, should it be established. Provision for actual establishment of the park is left to other processes.
One of the matters leading to suspension of Akaitcho Process



negotiations was a disagreement between the Akaitcho First Nations and the federal government over boundaries of the adjacent Dogrib Treaty 11 Claim. In November 2002 the Dogrib and Akaitcho leadership reached a boundary overlap agreement. Other First Nation and Métis interests in the East Arm area are becoming clearer as claims and treaty negotiations with these groups progress.

Traditional Trail in Wood Buffalo National Park
Discussions regarding the possible development of a traditional trail in Wood Buffalo National Park were held between Smith's Landing First Nation and Parks Canada. The trail connects two Smith's Landing Treaty Land Entitlement areas, Fort Fitzgerald and Pine Lake, and crosses sections of their traditional group trapping area within the park. The trail as a whole has not been used on a regular basis for over 40 years. Re-establishing the trail could possibly provide visitors an opportunity to gain a sense of past

and present land use within Wood Buffalo National Park.
Parks Canada and Smith's Landing First Nation agreed to conduct a feasibility study for trail development and set out the principles and guidelines of how this trail might be used. The first step included locating and mapping the trail while gathering information about associated cultural and natural features. This information can be incorporated into an environmental assessment for any future work identified.
A brief helicopter reconnaissance led by a Smith's Landing representative in August 2002 located visible sections of the trail, along with distinctive land form features associated with it. This information aided on-ground investigations. Portions of the trail were identified and plotted with a global positioning unit, and various cultural and natural features were documented. This information is now being compiled into a report with recommendations and considerations for future use and development.

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

■ Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites

1. Blackstone
2. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
3. Canyon City
4. Coal River Springs
5. Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve
6. Fort Selkirk
7. Fort Smith Mission
8. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine
9. Gwich'in
10. Herschel Island
11. Hidden Lake
12. Ijiraliq
13. Katannilik
14. Kekerten
15. Kuklok
16. Lansing Post
17. LaPierre House
18. Mallikjuaq
19. Montague Road House
20. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson City)
21. Oaummaarvitt
22. Rampart House
23. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
24. Robinson Road House
25. Sháwvshe
26. Sylvia Grinnell
27. Tombstone Natural Environment Park
28. Twin Falls Gorge

◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR) Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)

29. Arvia'juaq NHS
30. Aulavik NP
31. Auyuittuq NP
32. Deline Fishery and Fort Franklin NHS
33. Ehdaa NHS
34. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
35. Ivvavik NP
36. Kitigaryuit NHS
37. Klondike NHS (Dawson City)
38. Kluane NP
39. Kluane NPR
40. Nagwichoonjik NHS
41. Nahanni NPR
42. Our Lady of Good Hope Church NHS
43. Pingo Canadian Landmark
44. Outtinirpaaq NP
45. Sahyoue and Edacho NHS
46. Sirmilik NP
47. Tr'ochék NHS
48. Tukut Nogait NP
49. Vuntut NP
50. Wapusk NP
51. Wood Buffalo NP
52. Yukon NHS (SS Klondike)

★ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)

53. Anderson River Delta MBS
54. Banks Island No. 1 MBS
55. Banks Island No. 2 MBS
56. Bylot Island MBS
57. Cape Parry MBS
58. Dewey Soper MBS
59. East Bay/Harry Gibbons MBS
60. Igaliqtuut NWA (proposed)
61. Kendall Island MBS
62. McConnell River MBS
63. Nirjutiavvik NWA
64. Polar Bear Pass NWA
65. Prince Leopold Island MBS
66. Qaqluit and Akpait NWA (proposed)
67. Queen Maud Gulf MBS
68. Seymour Island MBS

* Areas Under Study

69. Akpatok Island
70. Digges Island
71. Eagle Plains
72. Foxe Basin Islands
73. Rasmussen Lowlands
74. Wolf Lake

+ National Park and National Historic Site Proposals

75. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
76. Northern Bathurst Island
77. Torngat Mountains
78. Tukut Nogait
79. Ukkusiksalik
80. Utkuhiksalik

★ Heritage Rivers

81. Alsek
82. Arctic Red River
83. Bonnet Plume
84. Kazan
85. Soper
86. South Nahanni
87. Tatshenshini
88. Thelon
89. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals

90. Beechey Island
91. Kusawa Lake
92. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
93. Uvajuq

▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers

94. Coppermine
95. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

□ Other Conservation Areas

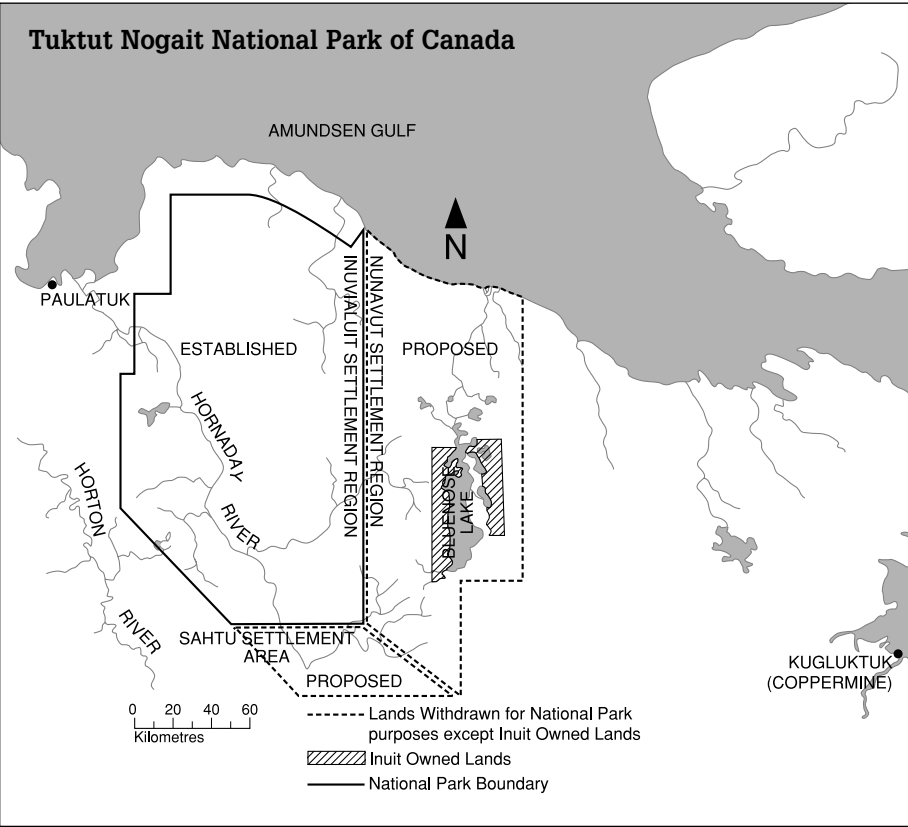
96. Asi Keyi Special Management Area (proposed)
97. Bowman Wildlife Sanctuary
98. Caribou River Wilderness Park
99. Ddhaw Gro Special Management Area
100. Edézhzié
101. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
102. L'hutsaw Wetlands Special Management Area
103. Nitsutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area
104. Nordenskiöld River Special Management Area
105. Old Crow Special Management Area
106. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
107. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Legend

- Existing Parks, Park Reserves, Game Sanctuaries
- Proposed Parks
- Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
- Areas Under Study
- National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
- Heritage Rivers
- Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- Proposed Heritage Rivers
- Other Conservation Areas

0 100 200 300 400
Kilometres

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas



Government of Canada—Parks Canada National Parks

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

Inuvialuit Settlement Region
Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada is located east of the community of Paulatuk, inland from the Arctic Ocean, and partially represents the Tundra Hills Natural Region. An agreement to establish the park was signed in 1996, following years of negotiations between Inuvialuit and the governments of Canada and the NWT. Lands remain withdrawn in the Sahtu Settlement Area and Nunavut for national park purposes until 2003 (see following articles).

Research undertaken in 2002 included muskox and caribou surveys, surficial geology and vegetation mapping, and an oral

history project. Water quality and flow monitoring on the Hornaday River continues, as does the operation of automated weather stations that measure air temperature, precipitation, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, snow depth and UV-B radiation. A three-year archaeological inventory and a report on its findings were completed this year. As part of the oral history project, interviews with Elders and hunters from Paulatuk focused on local knowledge related to the community and the surrounding lands. In support of improved access to the park, two float plane landing sites were investigated this summer and environmental screenings are now underway.

Development of the Visitor Reception Centre at the Parks Canada office in Paulatuk has begun, with final design scheduled for March 2003.

Sahtu Settlement Area

When Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada was created, two other areas remained to be added for the proper representation of the natural themes of Region 15 and the ecological integrity of the national park. One of these areas is within the Sahtu Settlement Area, immediately south of the park. In 2001, Parks Canada began negotiations with the Deline Land Corporation, on behalf of Sahtu Dene and Métis, to complete the park in the Sahtu. The work to add approximately 1,850 km² to the already established 16,340 km² has progressed well. Negotiation of an Impact and Benefit Plan is proceeding in accordance with the terms of the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, and the parties hope to bring this to a conclusion within the year.

Nunavut

At the time of establishment in 1998, lands remained withdrawn in the Nunavut and Sahtu Settlement Areas for the completion of Tuktut Nogait National Park. Consideration for adding the Nunavut lands is tied into the West Kitikmeot Land Use Planning process. Parks Canada continues to participate in this process, recommending that the final land use plan allow for the potential establishment of the Bluenose Lake area as part of the park.

A group representing Inuit land claim beneficiaries in Kugluktuk recently expressed its support for continuing discussions on the park proposal at the community level, and for extending the current land withdrawal which expires in March 2003. With this support, it is likely that the West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan will make provision for the addition of Nunavut lands to the park. Parks Canada and the people of Kugluktuk will now have time to gather any additional information

needed to come to a final decision about establishment. If the decision is to proceed with the park, the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* requires that the Government of Canada and Inuit conclude an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement prior to establishment.

National Historic Sites of Canada

Commemoration of Métis Women in the NWT

Now in its third year, this New Sites Initiative project focused on a submission to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) on Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux of Fort Providence. An outstanding representative of the Deh Cho and North Slave regions, a cultural broker, mentor, trail blazer and entrepreneur, Mme Bouvier-Lamoureux is remembered as a matriarch or “mother of all of us”. The submission was prepared in collaboration with Albert Lafferty and the Fort Providence Métis Council. The HSMBC has deferred the designation pending additional information on oral history methodology and comparative Métis history. The preparation of the submission highlighted the challenges of documenting women, in general, and Métis women who are largely “hidden from history”, in particular.

Further attempts were also made to identify and document Métis women of Gwich'in heritage in the Delta region. References and interviews were provided by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and oral history interviews were carried out with women from Aklavik and Tulita.

Plans for the upcoming year are to hold meetings with women Elders and other interested parties in various communities to discuss information collected to date on northern Métis women, address gaps, and identify other important Métis



women in the North. This work will supplement the chapter on Métis women in “Picking up the Threads : Métis History in the Mackenzie Basin” (Métis Heritage Association of the NWT and Parks Canada, 1998) and provide a framework for present and future commemorations.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan - Zone 1a

Assessment of the Beluga Management Plan - Zone 1a as a potential Marine Protected Area (MPA) under Canada’s *Oceans Act* is in the final stages.

The beginning of the assessment process for Zone 1a formally got underway in June 2000 when the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

(DFO) and key Inuvialuit organizations; including the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (representing industry); agreed to establish a Senior Management Committee (SMC). At the same time the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI) Working Group was established to oversee the preparation of the various assessments and community consultations. The working group is comprised of representatives from the same organizations as represented on the SMC, with the addition of a member from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. A DFO staffed Secretariat provides technical and



Looking for whales. (DFO)

administrative support to BSIMPI.

The working group has overseen the preparation of an ecosystem overview, and ecological, technical and socio-economic assessments in accordance with the “National Framework for Establishing and Managing Marine Protected Areas” (DFO, 1999). A non-renewable resource assessment is now being undertaken. In an effort to reflect not only scientific information a traditional knowledge component is being incorporated into the ecosystem overview and ecological assessment. A multiple account evaluation framework is being used to synthesize the large volume of data and information generated by this work. The BSIMPI Working Group reviews the assessments and summaries are prepared. This information is then provided to the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, the primary users of the Zone 1a, as part of a comprehensive consultation program directed at Hunters and Trappers Committees, Community Development Corporations, Elders and youth organizations, and the general public. One of the main objectives of the consultation process is to ensure that a balanced overview of the results of the assessment is presented.

At a meeting to be held in early 2003 in Inuvik, representatives from each of the organizations in the three communities will have the opportunity to meet and express their views on whether a recommendation should be sent to the BSIMPI Working Group to support the MPA. If support is forthcoming, the working group

may suggest that a letter be sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans recommending that the MPA go forward for establishment by regulation under the *Oceans Act*. Preparation of regulations, and regulatory and operational plans will be undertaken in consultation with the communities and organizations involved. If establishment is recommendation, Zone 1a will be the first MPA in Canada’s Arctic Ocean.

**Environment Canada—
Canadian Wildlife Service**

Edézhzhíe

The wetlands around Mills Lake, a widening of the Mackenzie River 40 km downstream from where it exits Great Slave Lake at the confluence of the Horn River, are important staging habitats for migratory waterfowl moving up and down the Mackenzie Valley. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has had an interest in Mills Lake and its protection for many years. Data has been collected that documents the importance of this area for spring and fall staging, as well as nesting, for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Fort Providence has long been interested in protecting Mills Lake for both subsistence and cultural reasons. For the same reasons, several communities were also interested in protecting the Horn Plateau. The Deh Cho and Tłı̨chǫ First Nations leadership along with Fort Providence, Łı́ı́dlı̨ Kue (Fort Simpson), Jean Marie River, Pehdzéh Kí (Wrigley), Rae (Behchokǫ́) and Wha Ti formally approved the combining of the Horn Plateau protected area initiative with the Mills Lake initiative. A single protected area, Edézhzhíe, is the result of this joint partnership. The features of this area include:

1. a representative example of the northern boreal forest (Horn Plateau Ecoregion) that supports a population of woodland caribou now listed as “threatened” by

- the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada;
2. the Horn Plateau as the source waters from a number of regionally important watersheds; and
3. a boreal wetland (Mills Lake) that is an important stopover for large numbers of birds during the spring and fall migration up and down the Mackenzie Valley.

In co-operation with its partners, CWS served as the sponsoring agency and worked toward the protection of Edézhzhíe under the *Canada Wildlife Act*. A five year land withdrawal for the area was announced in October 2002.

Assessments within Edézhzhíe, including ecological and mineral resource assessments, will now be carried out. This information will provide, in part, the basis for proceeding with the designation of the site, as well as how it will be managed. An Edézhzhíe Working Group, consisting of community representatives, government and non-government partners, has been established to oversee this work.

**NWT Protected Areas
Strategy**

Process Overview

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a guide for making decisions to protect lands using the best available knowledge. It envisions a future that safeguards special natural and cultural areas for future generations, while keeping resource development options open.

The implementation of the NWT PAS has been underway since 1999, under the guidance of the PAS Implementation Advisory Committee. The committee consists of representatives from regional aboriginal organizations, environment non-government organizations, industry and the governments of the NWT and Canada. Meetings are held several times a year and over the

**Planning Steps of the NWT
Protected Areas Strategy**

1. Identify priority areas of interest.
2. Prepare and review protected area proposal at regional level.
3. Review and submit proposal to a sponsoring agency for consideration.
4. Consider/apply interim protection to the candidate area.
5. Evaluate the ecological, cultural and economic values of the candidate area.
6. Seek formal establishment of protected area.
7. Approve and designate protected area.
8. Implement, monitor and review protected area.

past year the committee has gathered in Fort Smith, Yellowknife and Inuvik.

The focus of implementation is advancing new candidate protected areas to meet two goals:

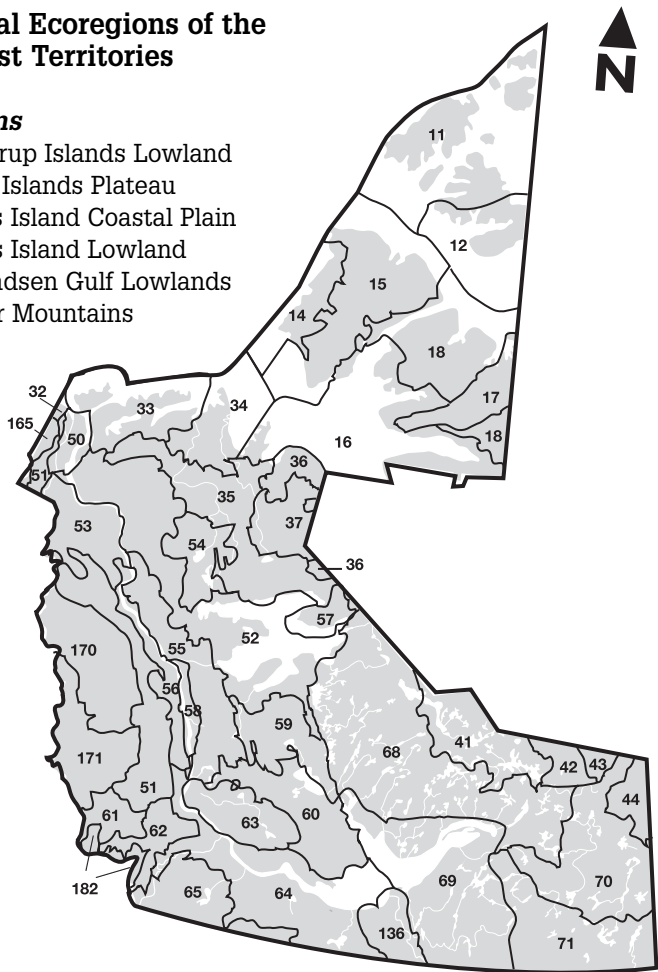
1. To protect special natural and cultural areas, where development could be permitted when compatible with the values being protected.
2. To protect core representative areas within each ecoregion where resource based development such as mining, logging, hydroelectric projects, agriculture, oil and gas surface work, and associated infrastructure will not be permitted.

Implementation of the NWT PAS has been on priority areas identified by communities and regional organizations. Fort Good Hope, Łutsel K’e, Fort Resolution, Wrigley and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council have identified areas of interest through the PAS. These areas have only advanced through the first steps in the PAS

**Terrestrial Ecoregions of the
Northwest Territories**

Ecoregions

11. Sverdrup Islands Lowland
12. Parry Islands Plateau
14. Banks Island Coastal Plain
15. Banks Island Lowland
16. Amundsen Gulf Lowlands
17. Shaler Mountains



18. Victoria Islands Lowlands
32. Yukon Coastal Plain
33. Tuktoyaktuk Coastal Plain
34. Anderson River Plain
35. Dease Arm Plain
36. Coronation Hills
37. Bluenose Lake Plain
41. Takijuk Lake Plain
42. Garry Lake

Lowland

43. Back River Plain
44. Dubawnt Lake Plain/Upland
50. Mackenzie Delta
51. Peel River Plateau
52. Great Bear Lake Plain
53. Fort MacPherson

Plain

54. Colville Hills
55. Norman Range
56. Mackenzie River Plain
57. Grandin Plains
58. Franklin Mountains
59. Keller Lake Plain
60. Great Slave Lake Plain
61. Nahanni Plateau
62. Sibbeston Lake Plain
63. Horn Plateau
64. Hay River Lowland
65. Northern Alberta Uplands
68. Coppermine River Upland
69. Tazin Lake Upland
70. Kazan River Upland
71. Selwyn Lake Upland
136. Slave River Lowland
165. British-Richardson Mountains
170. Mackenzie Mountains
171. Selwyn Mountains
182. Hyland Highland



Grand Chief Joe Rabesca and Grand Chief Michael Nadli (NWT PAS Secretariat)

process. Two candidate protected areas, Edézhzhie and Sahyoue/Edacho, have advanced to step 5 of the PAS process (also see articles on page 13). To an extent, these areas are contributing to the goal of ecoregion representation. There are 42 ecoregions in the NWT, 12 of which are adequately represented by existing protected areas.

Edézhzhie

Edézhzhie has been granted an interim land withdrawal from industrial exploration and development until 2007. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) acted as the sponsoring agency for the site, and will work with Deh Cho (DCFN) and Tłı̨chʼo First Nations (TCFN) to permanently protect the area. Under the interim withdrawal, lands cannot be leased or sold, and no new mining claims or oil and gas rights can be issued. Leases may be issued on areas only where there are existing mineral claims in good standing. There are, however, provisions for a pipeline corridor at the western tip of Edézhzhie.

First Nation leaders in the NWT welcomed the interim land withdrawal for Edézhzhie, and see it

as an important step in safeguarding their culture and the environment. The DCFN and TCFN requested protection for this important cultural and spiritual gathering place. The land is ecologically important and is a traditional hunting ground when harvesting is poor in the valley below.

Located west of Great Slave Lake and north of the Mackenzie River, Edézhzhie covers an area of 25,000 km². It rises abruptly up to 600 metres above the surrounding flat landscape and stores huge quantities of freshwater in its headwater lakes and muskeg. Key migratory bird habitat at Mills Lake and the Horn River are found here. Edézhzhie also supports a population of woodland caribou, a species listed as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. The Horn Plateau, a major part of Edézhzhie, is designated as an International Biological Program Site due to its extensive, deep lichen development over raised peat.

During the five year period, more consultations will be held and cultural, ecological and economic resources will be further assessed in order to determine the final boundaries and level of protection

under the *Canada Wildlife Act*. A working group, set up to oversee the evaluation and consultation process, includes representatives from the DCFN and TCFN, the communities of Fort Providence, Łı́ıdłı́j Kue (Fort Simpson), Jean Marie River and Pehdzéh Ki (Wrigley), CWS, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Government of the NWT, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, NWT Chamber of Mines, World Wildlife Fund and Ducks Unlimited.

Five communities from the DCFN and TCFN, working in partnership with the PAS (Protected Areas Strategy) Secretariat and non-governmental organizations, have shown that the community-driven PAS process works in the NWT. This is the second site under the NWT PAS to attain interim protection; the first was Sahyoue/Edacho in 2001.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society—NWT Chapter

Protected Areas in the Mackenzie Valley in Advance of Industrial Development

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) is supporting full conservation measures prior to any major industrial activity in the Mackenzie Valley, in particular, the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline. These measures include the completion of a network of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process. CPAWS-NWT and partners are looking for an accelerated timetable of assessing and protecting a network of environmentally and culturally important sites over the next three years. This will help maintain the ecological and cultural integrity of the Mackenzie Valley and will fulfill commitments made by both the federal and territorial governments.

Nunavut

Government of Canada—Parks Canada National Parks

Northern Bathurst Island

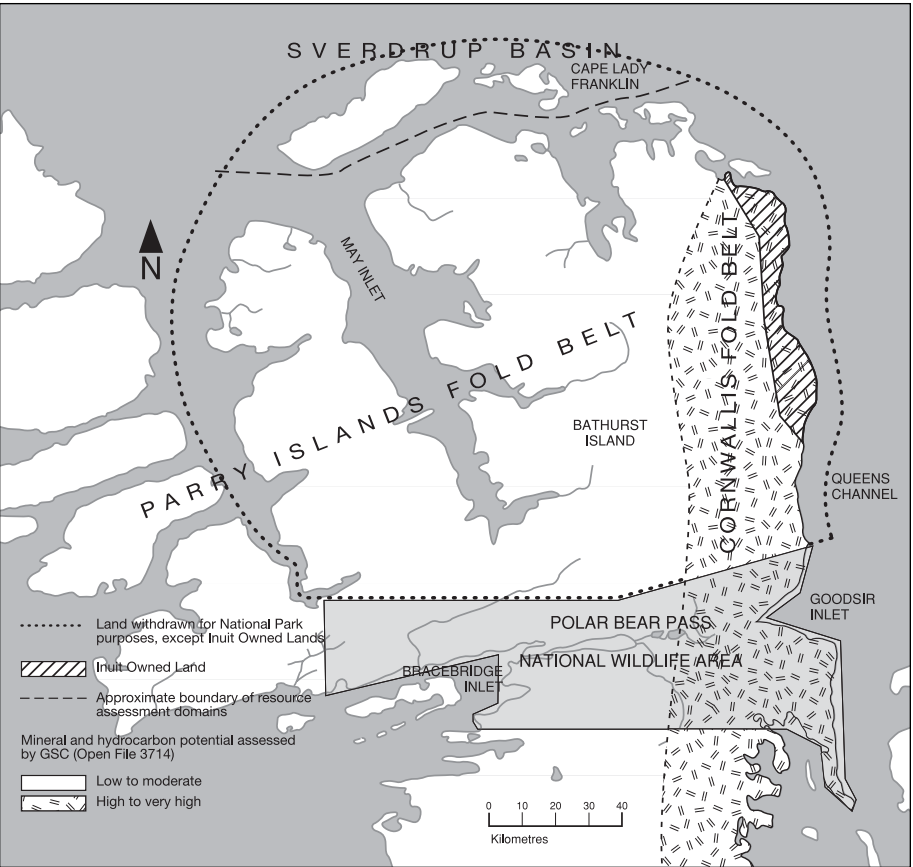
Northern Bathurst Island represents the Western High Arctic natural region, with its unique combination of geology, landforms, vegetation and wildlife. Bathurst Island is also home to the Peary caribou, an endangered species found only in Canada’s Arctic Islands. Within the proposed national park is found important habitat for this species, including calving areas and summer and winter range habitat.

Parks Canada has been working with the community of Resolute Bay and other government departments and interested groups to establish a national park at Northern Bathurst Island since the early 1990s. Lands have been reserved for national park purposes since 1996.

The Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) for this proposed national park was published by the Geological Survey of Canada in 1997 and concluded that the lands along the east coast of Bathurst Island have very high mineral and hydrocarbon potential. The MERA indicates that there is an overlap in mineral and hydrocarbon potential, calving areas for Peary caribou, and other important wildlife and park values.

The next step in the park establishment process is to begin formal negotiations between Parks Canada and Inuit regarding terms and conditions of park establishment. Pursuant to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, these terms and conditions will be set forth in an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement. These negotiations are subject to new funding, and the location of the park boundary will be an important point of negotiation.

Northern Bathurst Island



Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay)

Ukkusiksalik represents the Central Tundra Natural Region, and encompasses approximately 23,500 km². At the heart of the park proposal is Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Hudson Bay. The proposed park area includes an impressive variety of land forms, and a wide range of habitats supporting such wildlife as caribou, muskox, wolf, arctic hare, peregrine, gyrfalcon, polar bear, beluga, and ringed and bearded seal. Inuit residents from Kivalliq communities continue to travel to the area to hunt and fish.

Negotiations have been completed for the creation of a national park at Wager Bay. As required by the



Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the governments of Canada and Nunavut, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, on behalf of all Inuit, have negotiated an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). This Agreement sets out the conditions under which a national park can be created and includes such topics as: park boundary; access;

economic benefits to Inuit; co-operative management of the park; management of emergency kills of polar bears; outpost camps; and Inuit access to carving stone. Interim protection for the proposed park lands has been extended until October 1, 2004. The parties to the IIBA are anticipating that a signing ceremony will be held in the near future.

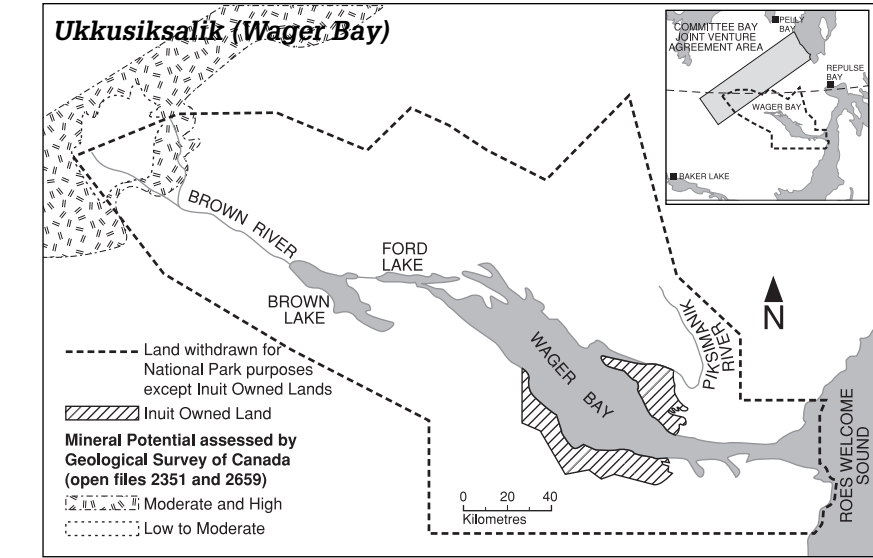
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Hudson Bay Integrated Management Planning Initiative

Canada's Oceans Act (1997) approaches oceans management by involving coastal communities in the conservation of oceans resources. Integrated management planning under the Act is a comprehensive way of planning and managing human activities so that they do not conflict with one another, and so that all factors are considered for the management and sustainable use of marine resources and shared oceans spaces.

In the fall of 2000, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) began an integrated management planning process for Hudson Bay by hosting two (western) Hudson Bay workshops. The workshops brought together community members, governments (federal, territorial, provincial and municipal), Nunavut Inuit organizations, First Nations, academics, consultants, industry, non-government organizations, and scientists to discuss the health and management of Hudson Bay. Nunavut participants recommended that consultations take place with affected coastal communities in the development of the management plan.

In March 2001, DFO travelled to Iqaluit and the communities of the western Hudson Bay region: Churchill; Rankin Inlet; Whale Cove; Arviat; Coral Harbour; Repulse Bay; and Chesterfield Inlet; to share information about DFO's new



management responsibilities for marine waters, and to learn what management issues were important to coastal communities. Some of the key issues identified were climate change, the importance of traditional knowledge, the jurisdictional complexity in Hudson Bay, contaminants, and subsistence wildlife harvesting.

The first Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group (HBOWG) was held in October 2001 in Rankin Inlet, where work began on the development of an integrated management plan for Hudson Bay. The focus is on the western coastal area, recognizing the linkages to the rest of the Bay. Some of the goals include:

- establishing reasonable and open processes to facilitate development of the integrated management plan;
- fostering sustainable development practices in Hudson Bay;
- educating interested parties about Hudson Bay issues and the work being carried out by the Working Group; and
- promoting stewardship of Hudson Bay by all interested parties.

Three subsequent HBOWG meetings have been held in Rankin Inlet and Churchill. The HBOWG is comprised of eight working committees (communications, economic

development, research, finance, jurisprudence, wildlife, environment, and traditional knowledge) which set priorities and deal with issue specific concerns in the western Hudson Bay.

Northerners agree that co-operative decision-making processes should be part of the approach to developing a long-term management planning process for Hudson Bay. By building partnerships and an understanding with interested parties, the HBOWG is working together to plan for the future of this important ecosystem. To learn more about this initiative, visit the website at:

http://www.umanitoba.ca/academic/institutes/natural_resources/im-node/hudson_bay or contact Steve Newton, Integrated Management Planner (204) 984-5561 or newtons@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

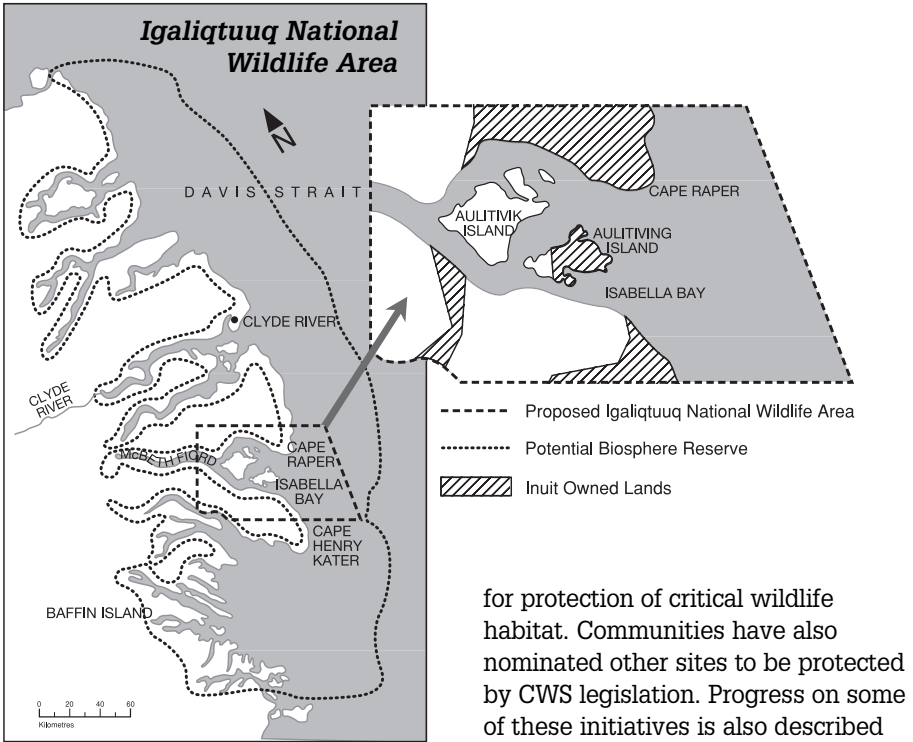
Environment Canada—Canadian Wildlife Service

New Initiatives and Existing Conservation Areas

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas, including two National Wildlife Areas and 11 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries that are administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Requirements of the NLCA include



Oqauluit and Akpait NWA CWS, Nunavut. (CWS, Nunavut/Mark Mallory)



for protection of critical wildlife habitat. Communities have also nominated other sites to be protected by CWS legislation. Progress on some of these initiatives is also described below.

Iqaliquuuq National Wildlife Area

In 1992, the community of Clyde River proposed the creation of Iqaliquuuq National Wildlife Area (NWA) to protect important bowhead whale habitat at Isabella Bay, Baffin Island. The boundaries for Iqaliquuuq were approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in June 1994. After many delays, Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) negotiations for this site are being

conducted in concert with the Umbrella IIBA process for existing conservation areas. Upon conclusion of the IIBA, the Canadian Wildlife Service will execute the formal designation process for the NWA, and will then begin habitat mapping and biological inventory work at Isabella Bay with the community of Clyde River.

In 2001, Environment Canada provided financial support to the World Wildlife Fund and the Iqaliquuuq Steering Committee, through the Habitat Stewardship Program, to conduct fieldwork and local employee training on monitoring bowhead whales in Isabella Bay. This work continued in 2002 with additional sightings and the identification of individual bowhead whales.

National Wildlife Areas at Oqauluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait (Reid Bay)

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) studies in the 1970s identified important seabird colonies at Cape Searle (Oqauluit) and Reid Bay (Akpait), two sites approximately 100 km southeast of Qikiqtarjuaq. While there was little support for protection of these two sites in the 1980s and 1990s, the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq received support from the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), and the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Land Development Committee to reopen the discussions toward protection of these sites in 1999.

At a public meeting in May 2000, the community voted to proceed with the work required to create a new National Wildlife Area (NWA). Since March 2000, four site visits have been made to gather baseline ecological data at Cape Searle. A community knowledge study has also been conducted, led by the Nattivak HTO and sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund. In June 2001 and 2002, a census and mapping

project was conducted at Cape Searle, the first time ever that this site has been mapped in detail. A NWA Boundaries Committee was appointed in 2001, and in November 2002 boundaries were recommended for the NWA.

Key Marine Sites for Migratory Birds

In Nunavut and the NWT, approximately 40 species of birds, representing more than 15 million individuals, rely on marine habitats for breeding, feeding, migration staging or wintering. In 2002, CWS drafted a document identifying 34 sites in Nunavut and the NWT that are key marine habitat sites for migratory birds (sites that support more than 1% of the Canadian population of a species at some point through their annual cycle). Peer review is underway, and publication is expected in 2003.

**Government of Nunavut—
Department of Sustainable
Development**
*Parks, Conservation Areas and
Tourism Division*



Mirnguiqsirviit (“Nunavut Parks”)

Nunavut (“our land”) was formed on April 1, 1999, and is more than one-fifth the size of Canada with more than two-thirds of its shoreline. Since the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary was first recommended for protection in 1900 for its wildlife and aesthetic beauty, more than 300,000 km² of parks and conservation areas have been protected in Nunavut - an area approximately one half the size of Alberta.

Residents of Nunavut are proud of this natural and cultural heritage,

their strong relationship to the diverse landscape and its resources, their communities, the wildlife, and their rich and important history. Nunavut’s territorial parks not only demonstrate and protect these significant landscapes, but they proudly showcase them locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

An Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks

The 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* changed the role of government in the protection of the environment for Nunavut. This *Agreement* recognizes the value and desirability of parks and conservation areas, and further defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas within Nunavut - which includes meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas. Meeting these obligations is an important and necessary first step in establishing existing and proposed parks and conservation areas.

Nunavut Parks, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and Kivalliq, Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Inuit successfully negotiated and signed an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) May 13, 2002. The IIBA is a comprehensive agreement that recognizes the role of territorial parks in Nunavut. The Agreement will assist in the development of Inuit tourism opportunities and benefits associated with parks by providing training opportunities related to parks, helping Inuit take advantage of economic opportunities related to the establishment and operation of the parks, and establishing a process for joint management and planning of the lands and resources in existing and future territorial parks.

One focus on implementing the IIBA over the next several years includes the establishment of a Nunavut Joint Planning and

Management Committee, whose role it will be to oversee the planning, establishment, operations and management of territorial parks.

A New Nunavut Parks Program

In keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, the interests of Nunavut, and recognizing the distinct differences between Nunavut and all other jurisdictions, the Government of Nunavut is committed to the development of a Nunavut Parks Program to identify the roles and values of parks and conservation areas in and for Nunavut. The program will review the relationships between existing national and territorial parks and conservation areas in Nunavut, heritage rivers and other proposed measures such as marine conservation areas. When completed, the Parks Program will ensure continued opportunities for effective long-term contributions to the goals of Nunavut and its communities through tourism, recreation, habitat protection, economic growth and sustainable development. This program will be followed by the creation of a parks and conservation areas system plan. Related changes

www.nunavutparks.com

As part of the development of the Nunavut Parks Program, Nunavut Parks re-launched its website in July 2002. Features include expanded information on all of the territorial parks in Nunavut, and information on safe and sustainable travel. A “bulletin board” encourages the exchange of information, trip reports, and park experiences. In addition, information and updates on the development of the Parks Program, the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, upcoming events and activities, and reports on initiatives in the parks will be posted here.

to parks legislation and policy will guide future development of parks and conservation areas in Nunavut. The Parks Program will be developed through a Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee to ensure that the program reflects the interests of Nunavummiut.

Visual Identity

In keeping with the development of the new Parks Program, Nunavut Parks has undertaken the development of a visual identity program. The purpose of the visual identity program is to present a consistent and professional presence throughout Nunavut, distinguish Nunavut parks from all others, and enhance public awareness of Nunavut parks in a clear and prominent way. Since 1999, the visual identity program has included the development of the Mirnguiqsirviit name and logo, the re-launched parks website, and the design standards for Nunavut park signage and facilities. The objective of the design standards is to set out comprehensive guidelines for the design, use, location, and maintenance of signs and facilities in Nunavut parks.

The Signage Manual reflects Inuit culture and the connection of Inuit to the land. Arctic weather conditions, visual impact, installation and maintenance in remote locations, iconography, and provision for the four languages of Nunavut were taken into consideration. Design elements incorporated into the system reflect the *innirvik* (sealskin stretching frame), the *qamutiq* (sled), and the Nunavut landscape.

The Facilities Manual will include standards for park facilities, from trails through to group shelters, reflecting the needs and wants of the user. Facility design inspirations include the *qammaq* (sod house) for park shelters.

Attraction Development

In 2001 and 2002, Nunavut Parks carried out feasibility studies to

consider the opportunities for the development of parks and other attractions in some of Nunavut’s communities, including Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Hall Beach and Kugaaruk. Building on existing Community and Regional Economic Development Plans and pre-feasibility studies, the studies have identified existing or potential tourism attractions, types of attractions that may be developed, the necessary support (training, product development, etc.) and facilities required, and the potential benefits to each of the communities.

Campgrounds

In 2002, Nunavut Parks began the process of re-developing three existing campgrounds, and establishing and developing two new campgrounds in Resolute Bay and Kimmirut. This multi-year project will include the provision of outhouses, tent platforms and pads, windbreaks, and picnic facilities. Community involvement in the planning and development of campground projects includes the selection of sites, type and number of facilities, and the identification of the campground name.

Ijiriliq Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about 10 km northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Ijiriliq (Meliadine River) Territorial Park. In summer, visitors and residents enjoy the river’s spectacular scenery, eskers and bedrock outcrops, as well as fishing, and viewing the park’s abundant wildlife including the endangered peregrine falcon. The park’s most outstanding features, however, are its many archeological sites, remnant of Dorset, Pre-Dorset and Thule cultures.

Ijiriliq has become the centre for increased cruise ship activity in the Kivalliq Region and Rankin Inlet. Interim park facilities will be replaced with more permanent structures. Future plans include the installation

of additional signage, interpretation and production of a park brochure.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik (“the place of waterfalls”) in the South Baffin, near Kimmirut, includes an area of approximately 1,269 km², almost all of it in the Soper River watershed. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Katannilik stretches northward from the top of Pleasant Inlet along the west coast of Hudson Strait (just outside of the community of Kimmirut) toward the south shore of Frobisher Bay, following the Soper Valley and a traditional overland trail. The park extends east and west beyond the valley, encompassing some of the rivers, deep gorges, sloping valleys, lakes and hills that make up the relief of the lower plateau.

In 2002, a pilot visitor registration package was developed for Katannilik Park. The package informs visitors of conditions in the park, provides safe and sustainable travel information, and will help develop a visitor database. The registration package will be finalized over the next few years. Development of a campground within the community of Kimmirut is to be completed in 2003.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish whaling station during the 1850s and 1860s. Knowledge of the whales, the area, and survival in the Arctic made Inuit essential allies in the commercial whaling industry. A number of artifacts remain as part of the whaling station, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and rigs.

In 2002, Nunavut entered into the second phase of a restoration project

that will increase economic development opportunities in Pangnirtung, while enhancing the awareness of the unique whaling history. The development of the Scottish Whaling Station at Kekerten will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site including the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. The project is still at the architectural design stage and the completion of the project is expected in 2006.

Kuklok Territorial Park

Kuklok Park is located 15 km upstream from the community of Kugluktuk. Rolling tundra, escarpments and rocky outcrops, and steep cliffs at the falls and along the river provide great opportunities for wildlife watching, fishing, hiking and camping. Bloody Falls, declared a national historic site in 1978, is found within Kuklok Park and is the site of perhaps the most famous battle in the north. The site contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps used more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of Arctic exploration which only begin to demonstrate the historic significance of the site.

The Coppermine River, which flows through the park, was nominated as a national heritage river in August 2002 (also see article on page 29). The park has become a well-used one-day boat trip from Kugluktuk and nearly all canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River choose to camp at Kuklok. A study was initiated in 2002 to design a portage trail within Kuklok Park to assist visitors. Local use of the area by community residents for camping and fishing is increasing, and reflects the traditional pattern of use for the site.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Mallikjuaq (“big wave”), known for its Thule sites and stone structures dating back some three millennia, offers panoramic views of the numerous islands and the complex coastline of southwest Baffin.

This area has often been recognized for its natural and cultural heritage potential for park and tourism development. Future site investigations will include environmental inventories and a site assessment, followed by the development of a park management and master plan, and site and additional facility design to address visitor impacts to the site.

Northwest Passage Park

Northwest Passage Park is not a park in the conventional sense. It is an effort to link stories from several communities and sites into one broad theme - the Northwest Passage - both the search by Europeans for a Northwest Passage, and the subsequent search by several expeditions for answers to the disappearance of the Franklin expedition.

In Gjoa Haven, the Northwest Passage Historic Park is a component part of this development. The signage along the walking trail through the town, and the display at the Hamlet complex, concentrate on Amundsen’s exploration and time in the community. Interest in the Northwest Passage is expected to grow leading up to the 100th anniversary of Roald Amundsen’s arrival in Gjoa Haven in 1903, before becoming the first person to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage by water.

Some of the other sites include Beechey Island off southwest Devon Island, where the Franklin Expedition wintered in 1845/46; Port Leopold on Somerset Island, where the first Franklin search expedition wintered in 1848/49; and Cape Hotham and Assistance Bay near Resolute,

associated with search expeditions of the early 1850s. For these and other locations, efforts are being made to co-ordinate identification, protection and interpretation of sites associated with the Northwest Passage and Franklin themes. Several of the sites have been proposed as potential historic parks through the *Territorial Parks Act*.

Sylvia Grinnell/Qaummaarviit Territorial Park

Located one km from the heart of Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, Sylvia Grinnell Park provides an opportunity for the many visitors and residents to readily experience the Arctic landscape. The park provides the visitor a chance to see the Baffin Island flora, including several rare plants such as the woodsia fern; fauna, primarily caribou and arctic fox; and its cultural heritage, including traditional fishing sites at the rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins.

In keeping with the master plan, development includes expanded access, the establishment of formal camping areas, and the development of a pedestrian bridge. Nunavut Parks has been working with the Department of National Defense, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation and the Rotary Club of Iqaluit to design and construct a pedestrian bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River. The foundation was started in November 2002, with completion of the bridge scheduled for the fall of 2003. The Sylvia Grinnell Trail was officially designated as part of the Trans Canada Trail in 2001.

Qaummaarviit Park is a Thule site with a history of more than 750 years of Inuit occupation. Summer tents, kayak stands, meat caches and more can be viewed, including the remains of 11 winter houses which used raised living surfaces and deep entries to trap cold air - techniques rarely seen elsewhere. The process of replacing the weathered interpretation signage at Qaummaarviit began in 2002.

Uvajuq Territorial Park

Uvajuq describes the region that includes Mount Pelly, one of three mountains approximately 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. Becoming increasingly popular for tourism because of its interesting mountain and lake landscape, and its characteristic Arctic wildlife, the area is also renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds. Many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

Although Uvajuq is currently accessible by a rough narrow route, it is already the most important day-use destination for visitors. A study was initiated in 2002 to design an interpretive trail for Uvajuq Park. The trail and interpretation plan will explore the natural beauty and historical significance of the park including its rare and sensitive plants, and its wildlife and bird habitat. The project will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System—Department of Sustainable Development *Parks and Tourism Division*

Coppermine River

Rich in culture and wildlife, the Coppermine River is one of the most scenic in Canada. The natural landscape and riverscape have only been modified by the forces of wind, water and ice. Copper deposits found along the river were important to the first peoples who lived there. Many important archaeological sites, distinguished by copper artifacts, are found along the Coppermine. It was stories of the copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne to the area in 1771. Hearne’s documented overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought



Coppermine River (© Parks Canada/F. Cramp)

the Coppermine into the history books. Other explorers, such as Sir John Franklin, soon followed and the Coppermine became an important exploration and fur trade route. The river continues to support Inuit subsistence lifestyle. Caribou, muskox, wolverine, wolves, moose, fox and a variety of raptors can be found here. The Coppermine and its environment are essentially unchanged since the first British explorers saw it.

The Nomination Document for the Coppermine River were accepted by the Canadian Heritage River Board in February 2002. The official nomination took place in August 2002. The Government of Nunavut (GN), working with the regional Inuit association, must develop a management plan within the next three years, before official heritage river designation occurs. In addition, GN will be working with the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the regional Inuit associations on the negotiation of a Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for all heritage rivers in Nunavut.

Soper River (Kuujuaq)

The Soper River (“big river”) winds its way from the highlands of the Meta Incognita Peninsula to Soper Lake and then mixes fresh tundra water with the salt waters of

Pleasant Inlet along the south coast of Baffin Island, creating tides of over 10.6 meters. The valley’s microclimate has created a landscape rich with willow, sedges, heathers and berries not found elsewhere in the Arctic Islands.

Designated a Canadian heritage river in 1992, the Soper runs through Katannilik Territorial Park, a 1,270 km² destination park in South Baffin. The valley creates a thermal oasis that often enjoys temperatures well above the norm. The result is a lush greenhouse of flowering and leafy plants that creates an ecosystem that includes such wildlife as caribou, wolves, polar bear, hares, lemmings, and birds such as peregrine falcons.

Visitors from around the world come to Katannilik Park to canoe or raft the Soper River, or hike and camp along the valley. The trend is toward longer trips that enable visitors to better appreciate the unique environment through hikes into the valley and up into the hills.

In 2002, the Government of Nunavut (GN) initiated a 10-year review of the existing Soper Heritage River Management Plan. The review will reaffirm community and regional support for the heritage river, indicate any changes to its nomination values, and verify that the goals of the heritage river still reflect those of the GN and the community of Kimmirut.

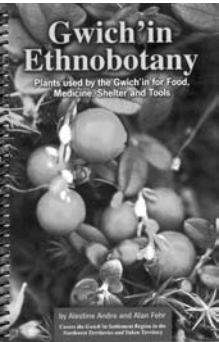
Publications of Interest

(all publications are available in English only, unless otherwise specified)

Andre, Alestine and Alan Fehr
2002 **Gwich'in Ethnobotany: Plants Used by the Gwich'in for Food, Medicine, Shelter and Tools - 2002 Revised Edition**

Published by Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and Aurora Research Institute. 68pp. Black and white and colour photographs; soft cover. ISBN 1-896337-09-0 (\$15.00)

Over thousands of years, Gwich'in have used a variety of trees, shrubs and berries for food, medicine, shelter



and tools. This publication presents information recorded from Gwich'in Elders on the use of 32 plants and three types of rocks and minerals. The book includes information on the Gwich'in names for these plants (in both the Gwich'ya and Teet'it Gwich'in dialects), where they are found, and how they can be used. Several recipes for making medicine and preparing food are also included.

This book is available in northern bookstores, as well as the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute office in Tsiigehtchic, and the Aurora Research Institute office in Inuvik.

McCartney, Leslie
2002 **2003 Gwich'in Elders' Calendar Published by Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute** 16 pp. 11" x 17". Sepia and glossy white. ISBN 1-896337-08-2 (\$15.00)

This calendar presents summaries in Gwich'in and English of the life

histories of 13 Elders living in the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, and Tsiigehtchic in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Also included are the months and days in both the Gwich'ya and Teet'it Gwich'in dialects. Includes large portrait photos of each Elder.

The 2003 calendar is available from the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute offices in Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson, the Boreal Bookstore in Inuvik, the Book Cellar in Yellowknife, the Fireweed Bookstore in Whitehorse and all the Gwich'in Band offices.

Andre, Alestine, Eleanor Mitchell Firth, Lisa Andre, William George Firth, Mark Reipl

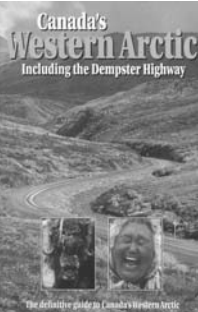
2003 **Dictionary of the Gwich'ya Gwich'in and Teet'it Gwich'in Dialects**, 4th Edition Published by Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. Black and white; soft cover. (\$40.00)

Since its publication in 1999, work has continued on the collection and verification of Gwich'in words, in both the Gwich'ya and Teet'it Gwich'in dialects, for the dictionary. Numerous words, including sewing terms, animal names and bird names, have been collected and verified. Bird names collected for the dictionary also appear in the "Field Guide to the Birds of the Mackenzie Delta" put out by the Aurora Research Centre in Inuvik. A section on Gwich'in grammar will also be incorporated into this edition of the dictionary. The dictionary and grammar is available from the Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson offices of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute.

Western Arctic Handbook Committee

2002 **Canada's Western Arctic, Including the Dempster Highway: The definitive guide to Canada's Western Arctic** Published by Western Arctic Handbook Committee. 352pp. Colour and black and white photos; colour illustrations; soft cover. ISBN 0-9687910-0-X (\$29.95)

"Canada's Western Arctic, Including the Dempster Highway" covers the NWT and Yukon above the Arctic Circle. Information in the book includes in-depth introductions to the history of Gwich'in and Inuvialuit people, and natural



history information about topics like permafrost, the Mackenzie Delta, and the plants and animals that inhabit the Western Arctic. Also included are maps and detailed guides to all nine communities in the region, as well as descriptions of all of the territorial and federal parks, and heritage and historical sites.

Chapters include Planning Your Trip, Life in the Western Arctic, Activities, Destinations, People, Land and Water, and Plants and Animals. The colour photographs are stunning, and many local people are featured. The Resources section contains a comprehensive list of books and other documents about the Western Arctic region.

Western Arctic Handbook Committee

2002 **Natural History of the Western Arctic** Published by Western Arctic Handbook Project. 98pp. Black and white photos and illustrations; soft cover. ISBN 0-9687910-1-8 (\$19.95)

This is a companion book to "Canada's Western Arctic, Including the Dempster Highway". It contains additional information on the land and water, plants and animals, and the wildlife, history and geography of the Western Queen Elizabeth Islands.

Finkelstein, Max W.

2002 **Canoeing A Continent: On the Trail of Alexander Mackenzie** Published by Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. 298 pp. English text with black and white photos and illustrations; soft cover. ISBN 1-



896219-00-4 (\$25.95) This book is a personal account of the travels of the author as he retraces, some 200 years later, the route of Sir Alexander

Mackenzie, the first European to cross North America. The voyages of the author, interwoven with those of Mackenzie, help the reader to grasp the outstanding effort put forward in traversing this vast and varied land en route to the Pacific Ocean. Not only is this book a tribute to Mackenzie, it also references the lives of the First Nation peoples who travelled the same waterways for untold centuries before. Mackenzie's water trail is now commemorated as the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route.

Peepre, Juri, Sarah Smith, et al
2002 **Yukon Wild (2nd Edition)**

Published by Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Yukon Chapter. 136 pp. Colour photos and descriptions; soft cover. ISBN 0-9699219-3-4 (\$25.00 including postage)

This full colour book includes a description of the Yukon's natural regions and their conservation status, stories, and an informative conservation atlas. Visit www.cpawsyukon.org, based on Yukon Wild, but including the latest news on conservation work in the territory.

For More Information...

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

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All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium.
Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks and National Historic Sites address above.

